

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the annual meeting of Charitable Trusts listed below held at the Cricket Club, Lower Fitz Park, Keswick Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

<p style="text-align: center;">Councillors</p> <p>Louise Dunn Denstone Kemp</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Councillors</p> <p>Natalie Evans Benita Laphorn</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Councillors</p> <p>Steve Harwood Claire Peat</p>
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Also present were Vivien Little (Trust Clerk), Catherine Parker (Finance Officer) and Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager).

1. Election of Chair

There being only one nomination it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Murray be elected as Chair for the ensuing year.

2. Election of Vice Chair

There being only one nomination it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Chris Houghton be elected as Vice Chair for the ensuing year

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Houghton, Claire Houghton, Nelson, Taylor and Scott.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2025 (pages 11-12).

5. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Harwood gave a personal explanation in regard to agenda item 14 as he was a member of Keswick Athletics Club. He would remain in the room and vote on the item.

6. Chair's Report

RECEIVED the Annual Report of the Chair of the Trusts.

RESOLVED that outreach be made to the Head of Keswick School, in order to work with the school to help teach healthy respect for the workings of the park (Action – Clerk).

7. Parks Manager's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager. The Parks Manager updated Trustees on the issues caused by the extended run of dry weather, with it being difficult to put out plants, and the wood in the play area obviously drying out due to its age.

An issue with the self closer on the pedestrian gate into the play area was highlighted, and the Parks Manager stated that she would take a look at it (Action – Parks Manager).

8. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Trust Clerk.

A query was raised whether the any proposed drainage work was actually in an area covered by the lease to the Football Club, or whether they were using the land informally. The Clerk stated that she would check into this and bring it back to the next meeting (Action – Clerk).

RESOLVED that the Biobliz event go ahead on 27 June 2025 in Elizabeth's Wood (Action – Clerk).

9. Futures Plans

RECEIVED the report of the Trust Clerk. The Futures Plans were looked at in some depth, with Trustees making suggestions to look at. One of the key things highlighted was the rotting river wall by Silver Bridge, and it was requested to ask the National Park/Environment Agency what materials were suitable and to look at costings to bring back to a future meeting, so that it can begin to be costed for (Action – Parks Manager, Clerk, Financial Officer). The Clerk was also requested to contact those who regularly put banners on our railings without permission and ask that these be removed (Action – Clerk).

RESOLVED that the Futures Plans be agreed, and be brought back annually at the May Trust meeting.

10. Linked Charities update

Trustees were asked to consider correspondence from the Charity Commission regarding the linking of Fitz Park and Townsfield Charities.

RESOLVED that the correspondence was noted.

11. Bowling Club – Proposed storage

RECEIVED the report from the Clerk. Trustees agreed with the idea of a building beside the Bowling Bower, with the cladding to match the Bower's exterior. They requested to also move their current small container to the other side of the Bower, to allow them to continue having that storage. It was felt that as the reason for the building was to ensure that all containers were gone, this would have to apply to the Bowling Club as well. The Clerk was also asked to ensure that the Bowling Club would be paying for their container to be removed, as well as obtain a timescale. (Action – Clerk).

RESOLVED that the proposal for a new building by the Bowling Club was agreed in principle, and that the request to site a container on the other side of the Bowling Bower be denied.

12. Budget Comparisons

RECEIVED budget comparisons for the fourth quarter.

13. Review of Hire Charges

RESOLVED that there would be no change to the fees for 2025/2026.

14. Requests for use of the Parks

Consideration was given to the requests to use the parks:

RESOLVED that

- i) Keswick Beer Festival were given permission to put banners on Fitz and Hope Park railings advertising the Beer Festival, to be removed by Sunday 8 June 2025 (Action – Clerk); and
- ii) Keswick Athletics Club, to host a barbecue for an after race social event at the Cricket Pavillion, in connection with the Round Latrigg race on Wednesday 11 June 2025 (Action – Councillor Harwood).

Prior to the following business the Chairman moved the following resolution:

'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'

15. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2025 (pages 13-14).

16. Fitz Park update

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED that

- i) the Clerk lodge a complaint with the provider (Action – Clerk); and
- ii) £6,000 provision be taken from accruals to pay for the bill (Action – Financial Officer)

17. Deed of Easement

RECEIVED a report from the Clerk.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent as directed in the report. (Action – Clerk).

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm.

Chair

Date